



Officer Reduction in Force

Week of 16 Feb 07 - 22 Feb 07

Shaping our Air Force and ensuring we have the right mix of skills sets will result in approximately 40,000 active-duty Airmen separating from the service in order to meet our lower authorized end-strength.

The process for separating these Airmen is very methodical and detailed, and it's being handled this way because Air Force leaders want to make sure the Air Force maintains its combat capability as numbers of people in some Air Force Specialty Code are reduced. The most recent step in this process involves an officer Reduction in Force (RIF) Board.

This RIF is limited by law that states the number of people separated cannot be more than 30 percent of the number of eligible officers. Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain, Director of Force Management Policy for the Air Force at the Pentagon, said, "For the RIF, because we are trying to do force shaping very, very carefully, we are allowed to do that by Air Force Specialty Code and by year group, limited to 30 percent. If the sustainment line is lower than 30 percent, we will take that lower number." The officer RIF will affect officers in the 1995, 1996, 2000 and 2001 year groups.

The Air Force prefers force shaping to happen through voluntary separation rather than by involuntary means. That's why Air Force leaders extended the voluntary separation pay application period for officers, and are making it as easy as possible for officers to volunteer to separate.

Force shaping and involuntary separations are never easy decisions for Air Force leaders. But as Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower and Personnel, once said, "It's important to keep in mind what force shaping is all about: the present and future state of the Air Force. We have to balance our (force) for now and in the coming years to have the kind of force we need to win the long war we are in now, and be prepared for whatever comes next."

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